



Did you know...



It is never too early to introduce babies to print. Board books have pages that are heavy, sturdy, and laminated. They are perfect for little hands. Babies and toddlers explore their world by putting things into their mouths, including books. This is normal, which is why board books are a great choice for young children.

Books don't have to be read from front to back. You can take a "book walk" by turning the pages and pointing to pictures. Name the pictures as you look at them, which helps to build your child's



vocabulary. If your child wants to look at the same pictures over and over, give them time to do so. Children need repetition for information to be stored in their long-term memories.

Here's how...



Keep board books clean:

- ✦ Softly wipe with a mixture of a little dish soap and water. Wipe dry with a towel or washcloth.

Make time to read:

- ✦ During mealtime
- ✦ While your toddler is getting ready for a nap or bedtime
- ✦ Listen to books on CD while in the car
- ✦ Snuggling on your lap- at any time!

Read

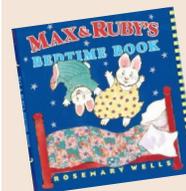


Shopping (Baby Max and Ruby series), by Rosemary Wells



Going to the grocery store can be an adventure with two young children. The photos and bright artwork will capture your little one's attention, while introducing them to print.

Rosemary Wells has written a series of Baby Max and Ruby books that involve the bunnies in daily routines.

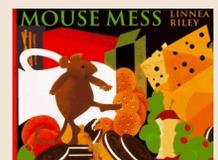


Choosing Books



More print-rich books...

Mouse Mess, by Linnea Riley



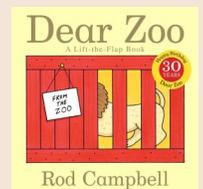
Let's Go To the Library, by Scholastic Inc.

Don't Let the Pigeon Drove the Bus! by Mo Willems

Baby Signs, by Joy Allen

Feast for 10, by Cathryn Falwell

Dear Zoo, by Rod Campbell



Talk



When you talk with your child, point out words and signs that are in your home or out in the community. Children soon associate letters with routines, such as walking by the stop sign on the corner or going to the grocery store.

Write



There are different sensory experiences that will prepare young children for writing. Toddlers can draw in pudding on a flat surface with their fingers, or in mud with a stick. Playing with play dough strengthens muscles that are used for writing. Exploring with their hands is a fun way to practice writing skills.

Play



Pat-a-Cake

(Match body movements to words)

Pat-a-cake (clap baby's hands)

Pat-a-cake

Baker's man.

Bake me a cake

As fast as you can.

Roll it (roll baby's hands)

And pat it (Pat hands twice)

And mark it with a "B" (Make a "B" on baby's chest)

And put it in the oven

For baby and me. (pat baby's tummy)



Sing



Where is Thumbkin?

Start by holding your hands behind your back; with thumbs out.

Where is thumbkin?

Where is thumbkin?

Here I am *(bring out one thumb)*

Here I am *(bring out the other thumb)*.

How are you today sir?

(make thumb talk to the other thumb)

Very well; I thank you.

(and vice versus with this thumb)

Run away,

(put one thumb back behind your back)

run away!

(put the other thumb back behind your back)

You can hear watch a video of this song at:

www.wccls.org/rhymes/where-is-thumbkin



At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.